

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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FOLLOWING REPEAT NEW DELHI 11444 ACTION SECSTATE 29 SEPT

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 11444

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID IN

SUBJ: SOVIET GRAIN LOAN TO INDIA

REF: STATE 193569

1. GOI OFFICIALS WHOM EMBASSY WAS ABLE TO REACH BY 0830 THIS MORNING, CONFIRM THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS AGREED TO SUPPLY INDIA WITH TWO MILLION TONS OF GRAIN ON A LOAN BASIS.

2. SOVIET OFFER TO PROVIDE THE GRAIN WAS MADE IN A PERSONAL COMMUNICATION FROM GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV TO PRIME MINISTER GANDHI. THE OFFER WHICH THE INDIANS DESCRIBE AS "UNSOLICITED" INCLUDES AN UNSPECIFIED QUANTITY OF RICE WHICH GOI OFFICIALS SAY WILL BE SMALL ALTHOUGH THE EXACT QUANTITY OF RICE INVOLVED IS YET TO BE DETERMINED.

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3. GOI OFFICIALS SAY THAT MANY DETAILS OF THE AGREEMENT

ARE TO BE WORKED OUT LATER. THEY EXPECT SHIPMENT OF THE GRAIN TO INDIA TO BEGIN SOON. THE EXACT SOURCE OF THE GRAIN HAS NOT BEEN DETERMINED. IT IS EXPECTED THAT MOST OR ALL OF THE GRAIN WILL COME FROM THE SOVIET UNION ALTHOUGH GOI OFFICIALS HOPE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO DIVERT TO INDIA SOME SOVIET GRAIN NOW IN TRANSIT FROM THIRD COUNTRIES.

4. THE ARRANGEMENT FOR OBTAINING GRAIN FROM THE SOVIET UNION ARE AT PRESENT ON A LOAN BASIS, HOWEVER, GOI OFFICIALS SAY THAT FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS MAY RESULT IN SOME OF THE GRAIN BEING PURCHASED ON A COMMERCIAL BASIS.

5. CONTRARY TO INDIAN STATEMENTS, INDIANS REPEATEDLY ASKED SOVIETS FOR GRAIN THIS SUMMER. SOVIETS WERE NEGATIVE BUT INDIANS CONTINUED REQUESTS.

6. EMBASSY WILL REPORT FURTHER DETAILS AS INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE.
SCHNEIDER UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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